

In response to the outstanding Office Action, kindly amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Kindly amend claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 as follows. A marked-up version showing the changes made to the amended claims is attached.

A¹

--1. (Amended) A gel electrolyte containing at least a gelling agent and an ionically conductive material which is liquid at working temperature, wherein said gelling agent gels by forming a fibrous associated body via intermolecular bonding.

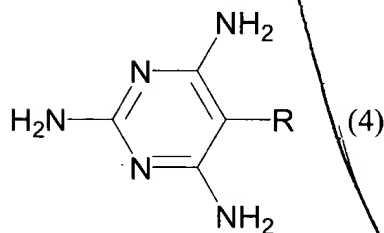
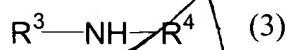
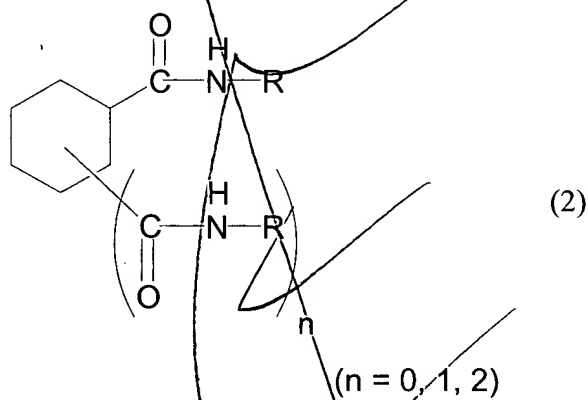
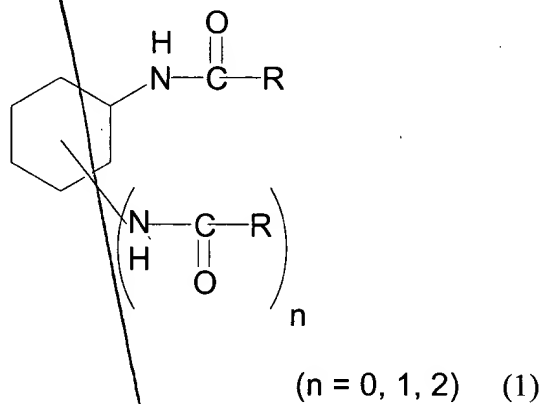
2. (Amended) The gel electrolyte of claim 1, wherein said ionically conductive material is a salt which is liquid at room temperature.

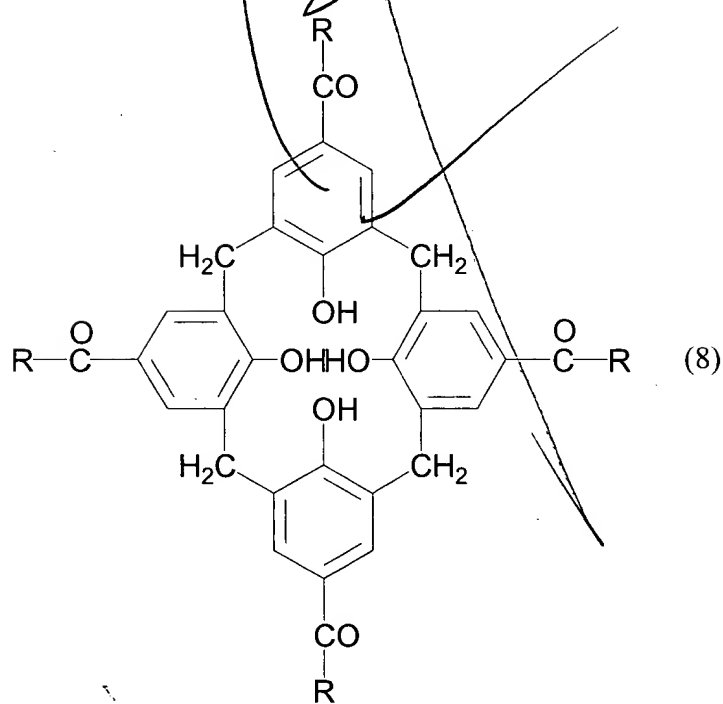
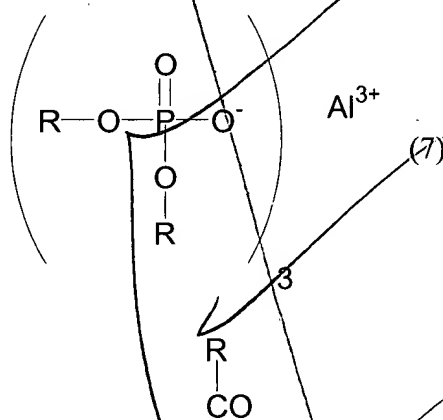
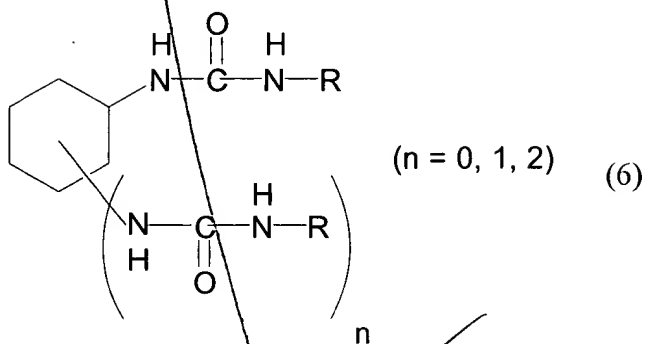
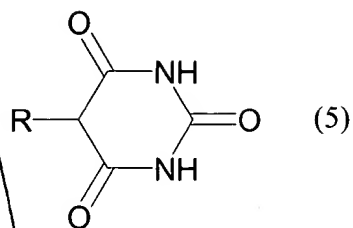
A²

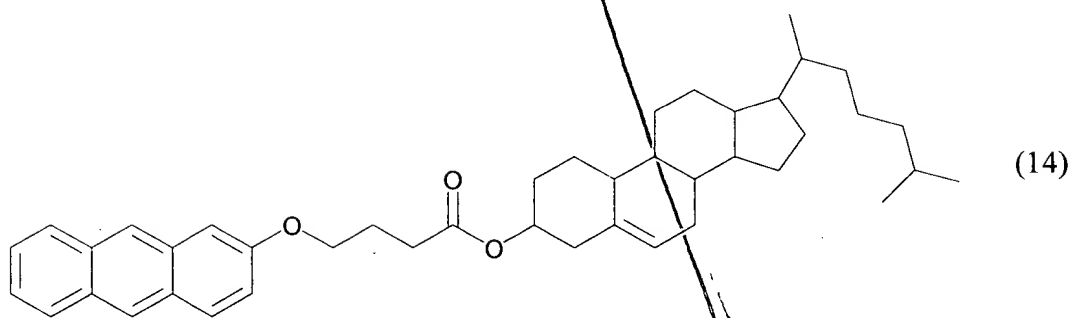
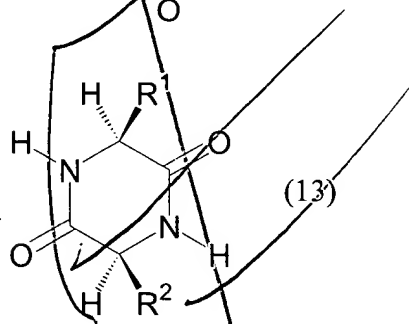
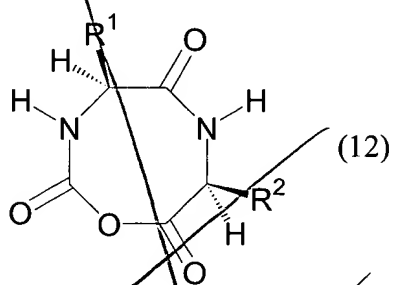
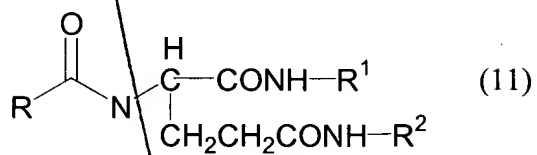
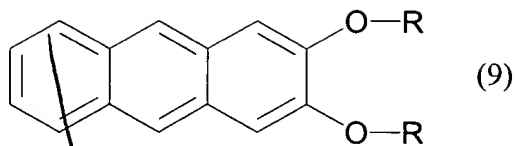
4. (Amended) The gel electrolyte of claim 1, wherein gelling agent has at least one group selected from the group consisting of carbamate, amide, urea, carboxyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, phosphate, amino and ammonium.

A3 5. (Amended) The gel electrolyte of claim 1, wherein said gelling

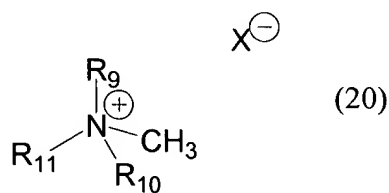
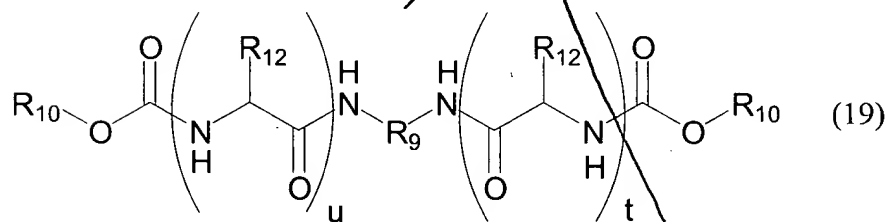
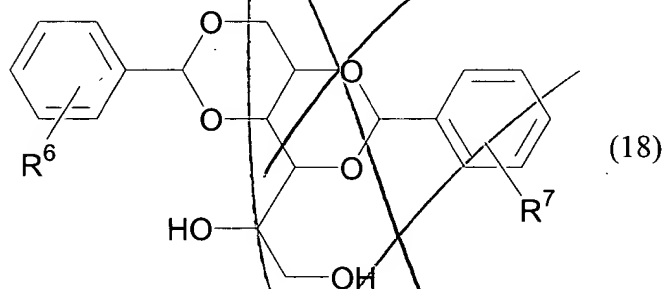
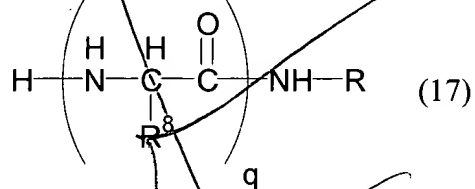
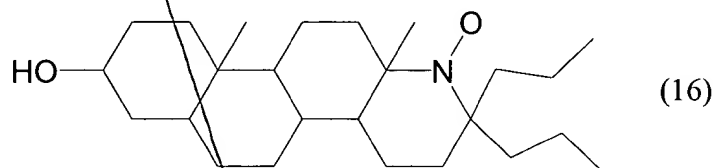
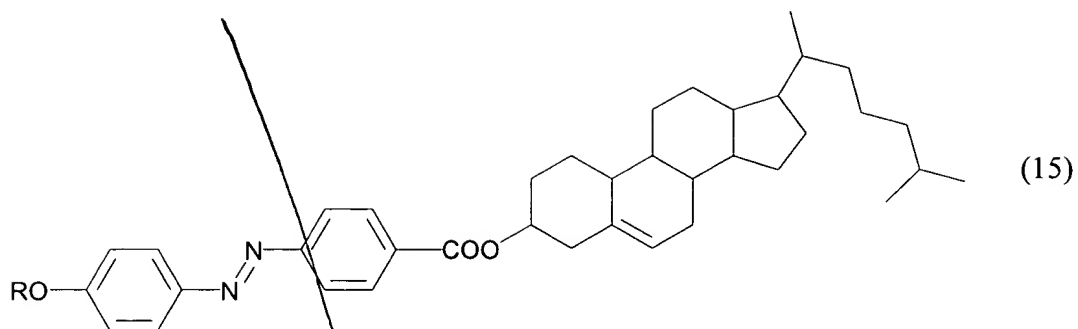
agent is selected from the group consisting of the compounds represented by the following formulae (1) to (26):



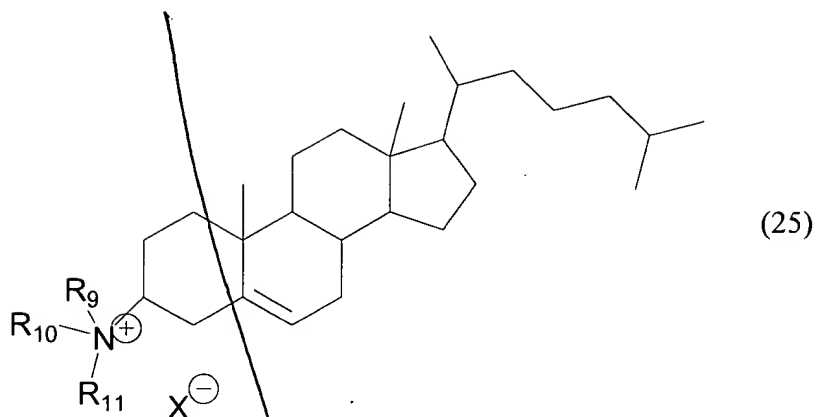




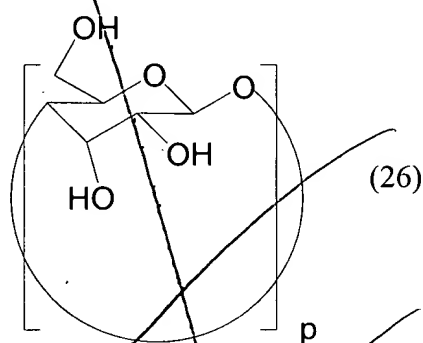
*Cont.
pgs*







and



wherein, R, R₁ and R₂ are each hydrogen, or a straight-chain or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a carbon number of 1 to 29; R₃ is an amino acid monomer or dimer with a protected amino group; R₄ is an aliphatic hydrocarbon having a carbon number of 1 to 29 or an aryl group; R₅ is a straight-chain aliphatic group having a carbon number of 1 to 29 and being substituted with one hydroxyl group; R₆ and R₇, are each an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a carbon number of 1 to 29 or an aryl group; R₈ is hydrogen, or an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a carbon number of 1 to 5 or aryl group; n is 0, 1 or 2; q is an integer of 2 to 20; R₉, R₁₀ and R₁₁ are each hydrogen, or a straight-chain or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a carbon number of 1 to 29; R₁₂ is a side chain of an amino acid, or an alkyl or aryl group; X is a halogen; p is an